

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

EB-07 TRSE-00 /067 W  
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R 170830Z JAN 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2035  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCNSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0408

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, TU  
SUBJ: RPP MANEUVERS TO UNSEAT DEMIREL

REF: ANKARA 0109

1. THE TURKISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE UNSETTLED (REFTEL) AND BASED ON THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF POLITICAL LEADERS AND WHAT WE ARE TOLD PRIVATELY, IT IS APPARENT THAT CONSIDERABLE MANEUVERING IS GOING ON WITH THE HOPE OF BRINGING DOWN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, BOTH PRIMIN DEMIREL AND REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT HAVE DESCENDED TO NEW LOWS IN THEIR CHARACTERIZATIONS OF THE OTHER'S POLICIES:

A. PRIMIN DEMIREL STATED ON JANUARY 12 THAT RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT WAS "EXASPERATED BY THE EXISTENCE OF A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY" AND CONSEQUENTLY HAD DIRECTED HIS PARTY TO "PIN ITS HOPES ON ANARCHY". HE SAID THAT ECEVIT WAS "SENDING INTO THE STREETS COMMUNIST AND ANARCHIST GANGS HE FREED IN THE 1974 AMNESTY...TO  
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BRING HIM TO POWER AGAIN." DEMIREL CLAIMED THAT ECEVIT

"HAD PROCLAIMED HIMSELF THE RINGLEADER OF SUBVERTERS AND DISRUPTERS."

B. ECEVIT REPLIED JANUARY 14 THAT WHENEVER DEMIREL IS IN POWER "RIVERS OF BLOOD FLOW IN TURKEY." CHARGING THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WANTED TO ESTABLISH A "JOINT CIVILIAN-MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" ECEVIT SAID THAT "THE DOWNFALL OF THIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE SECURED AND EXPLOITED ...AND IF THE STATE AND DEMOCRACY ARE TO BE SAVED FROM BEING DESTROYED, THE RPP CONSIDERS THAT DOING EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO ACHIEVE THIS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IS A PATRIOTIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DEMOCRATIC TASK."

2. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS "TASK", THE RPP APPEARS TO BE FOCUSING ITS EFFORTS ON THE DEMIREL BUDGET. ALTHOUGH CONSTITUTIONALLY OUTNUMBERED IN THE PARLIAMENTARY JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE (30 GOVERNMENT MEMBERS VERSUS 20 OPPOSITION), THE RPP AND ITS ALLIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO ALTER THE GOVERNMENT-PREPARED PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THIS EFFORT APPEARS TO BE MERELY LAYING THE GROUND FOR THE TRUE TEST OF STRENGTH -- THE VOTE ON THE BUDGET AS A WHOLE. APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET WILL BE VOTED UPON FIRST BY THE SENATE; PASS OR FAIL, IT GOES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. FIRST IT WILL BE VOTED UPON IN ITS ENTIRETY AS THE PROGRAM OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AND IF IT IS DEFEATED, THE GOVERNMENT TRADITIONALLY RESIGNS (UNLESS THE OPPOSITION HAS GARNERED 226 VOTES, A MAJORITY OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IN WHICH CASE THE GOVERNMENT MUST RESIGN.) IF IT IS APPROVED, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL LINE ITEMS BY VOICE VOTE AND AT THE END OF THIS PROCESS, THE FINAL BUDGET IS VOTED. THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE COULD CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS (DEPENDING ON WHEN THE BUDGET IS FIRST SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE, WHICH HAS ONLY 10 DAYS TO DELIBERATE), BUT THE FINAL VOTE OF APPROVAL MUST BE DECIDED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRIOR TO MARCH 1. THE RPP-LED OPPOSITION THUS HAS TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO REJECT THE BUDGET: EITHER AT THE FIRST OR THE SECOND READING. THEIR STRATEGY WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DETERMINED BY THE VOTES THEY THINK THEY CONTROL AT EACH OPPORTUNITY. SHOULD THEY SUCCEED ON EITHER OCCASION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, IF IT HOLDS WITH TRADITION, RESIGN AND SUBMIT A TEMPORARY QUARTERLY BUDGET WHICH WOULD BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL THE SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT SUBMITS ITS BUDGET.

3. THE RPP IS GOING ALL OUT IN THE BUDGET DEBATE TO

UNSEAT DEMIREL. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN DEMIREL AND THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) SEEM TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, OR AT LEAST SHOVED UNDER THE TABLE, THE RPP IS HOPING TO FIND AREAS OF CONFLICT IN THE COALITION WHICH IT MIGHT AGGRAVATE. MEHMET ALI ARSAN, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE INDEPENDENT GROUP (ON WHICH DEMIREL IS DEPENDENT FOR HIS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY) TOLD AN EMBOFF JANUARY 15 THAT DEMIREL WOULD FALL ON THE BUDGET VOTE. THE NEGATIVE VOTES, CLAIMED ARSAN, WOULD COME FROM A COALITION OF THE RPP PLUS DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PLUS 6 INDEPENDENTS PLUS UP TO 5 REPUBLICAN RELIANCE DEPUTIES AND THE ABSTENTION OF THREE NSP DEPUTIES.

4. COMMENT: ARSAN HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST ON HIS VARIOUS MACHINATIONS ALTHOUGH MANY OF HIS ATTEMPTS HAVE NOT PANNED OUT. HIS CLAIM THAT THE RPP IS ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER A COALITION TO UNSEAT DEMIREL IS SUPPORTED BY RECENT STATEMENTS OF RPP LEADER ECEVIT. HOWEVER, EVEN IF IT SHOULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT, UNLESS IT IS ABLE TO OBTAIN THE DEFECTION OF AT LEAST FIVE TO TEN ADDITIONAL JP AND RR DEPUTIES, IT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. NEITHER DOES IT APPEAR THAT THE RPP HAS THOUGHT THROUGH THE CONSEQUENCES OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT WITH ITS PUTATIVE ALLIES, A GROUP WHICH WOULD LIBLY BE DBEN MORE OBSTRUCTIONIST TO RPP PROGRAMS THAN ITS FORMER COALITION PARTNER, THE NSP. ALSO, ITS PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS APPEAR TO BE OPPOSED TO THE RPP DESIRE FOR EARLY ELECTIONS. THEREFORE, OUR JUDGMENT REMAINS, BARRING UNFORESEEN DEFECTIONS FROM THE RR, THAT THE RPP ATTEMPT WILL BE UNSUCCESSFUL AT THIS STAGE.  
MACOMBER

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